

Advance Voting and Corrupt Political Advertising; HB 2614

HB 2614 amends provisions of election law and the Campaign Finance Act concerning advance voting ballot envelopes, the delivery of advance voting ballots, and corrupt political advertising. The provisions of the bill will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Advance Voting Ballots

Advance Voting Ballot Envelopes

Under current law, advance voting ballot envelopes must include a signature block for the advance voter and a signature block for any person who signs the advance voting ballot envelop on behalf of another advance voter when such advance voter is physically unable to sign the envelope. The bill amends the requirements for advance voting ballot envelopes to:

- Add a signature block for the person, if any, who is authorized by the advance voter to deliver the advance voting ballot to the county election office;
- Add a designated block for the person who is authorized by the advance voter to deliver the advance voting ballot to the county election office to print such person's full name; and
- Add the statement, to be printed on each advance voting ballot "KSA 25-2437 prohibits the transmission or delivery of more than 10 advance voting ballots by any one person."

The bill also clarifies the language regarding the signature block for the person assisting the advance voter, if the advance voter is physically unable to sign the envelope.

Record of Persons Delivering Advance Voting Ballots

The bill requires each county election officer to record the name of each individual who delivers an advance voting ballot on behalf of another voter and maintain a record of the number of such ballots returned by each individual to the county election office.

If any individual returns more than ten advance voting ballots during an election, the county election officer is required to file a complaint with the Secretary of State and the county or district attorney for such county alleging a violation of KSA 25-2437, which prohibits the transmission or delivery of more than ten advance voting ballots by any one person.

Corrupt Political Advertising

The bill amends election crime and Campaign Finance Act provisions regarding corrupt political advertising to remove the requirement to include the name of the treasurer of the sponsoring organization on communications advocating for the nomination, election, or defeat of

a clearly identified candidate for state or local office. Under current law, such communications must include either the name of the chairperson or the treasurer of the sponsoring organization. The bill requires only the name of the chairperson of the sponsoring organization to be included on such communications.

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